

From: Keith Weed [mailto:krweed@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2006 11:52 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Central Coast MPA Packages

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

As a California resident, protection of the coast and ocean is personally important to me and to my family. I have been following the MLPA developments in the Central Coast because I value the health of the ocean and want to help make sure it is protected for future generations to use and enjoy. I have been an active scuba diver, particularly in the Monterey/Carmel area, for some 14 years so that I have seen the decline in marine life in non-protected areas.

I urge you and the other members of the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force to support a package of Marine Protected Areas that is truly capable of working as an effective scientific network to restore and protect the full range of ocean life. The backbone of this network should be made of marine reserves, which offer the highest level of protection for marine life and underwater habitats.

Specifically, I support adoption of adequately sized marine reserves at special areas including Ano Nuevo, Point Sur, and Piedras Blancas. I support increasing the size of the tiny existing Point Lobos, Hopkins and Big Creek reserves so that they can better protect fish populations and provide improved research opportunities.

I also support establishing marine reserves off of Cannery Row in Monterey and at the Cypress Pinnacles in Carmel Bay to restore these depleted areas and improve recreational opportunities for the many thousands of scuba divers that use these areas each year.

Two of the proposals before you today--**Package 2 and Package A-C**--protect these special areas and safeguard California's ocean heritage. I urge you to consider the ingredients in these proposals as you make your final recommendations so we can have a network that works for all Californians.

The MLPA is a unique opportunity to protect California's ocean heritage, just as our state parks have helped protect our State's most treasured landscapes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I appreciate your efforts to involve interested citizens like me in this important process.

Sincerely,

Keith Weed
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